

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A wound approximation device, the device comprising:
a cyanoacrylate wound-sealing adhesive; and
a solid resilient sheet ~~and comprising~~ an opening, wherein the opening is of a sufficient size such that it surrounds a skin wound and exposes a margin of skin surrounding the wound when the resilient sheet in a stretched form is placed against the skin, wherein the resilient sheet is configured to approximate the wound when allowed to relax into an unstretched form when placed against the skin, and wherein a portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a substance which does not form a strong bond with a the cured cyanoacrylate wound-sealing adhesive used to seal the wound, such when the cyanoacrylate wound-sealing adhesive is applied through the opening to the margin of skin surrounding the approximated wound so as to seal the wound upon curing, the resilient sheet can be removed from against the skin without disturbing the cured cyanoacrylate adhesive sealing the wound.
2. (Original) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient sheet comprises an elastomer.
3. (Original) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a vinyl sheet.
4. (Original) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a urethane sheet.
5. (Original) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a vinyl.
6. (Original) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a urethane.
7. (Currently amended) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein ~~the a~~ portion of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a backing adhesive.
8. (Currently amended) The wound approximation device of Claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the backing adhesive comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive.

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Filed : December 18, 2001

9. (Original) The wound approximation device of Claim 4 8, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises a butyl acrylate.

10. (Currently amended) The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the cyanoacrylate wound sealing adhesive comprises a butyl cyanoacrylate or an octyl cyanoacrylate.

11. (Currently amended) A method of sealing a wound, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a wound approximation device, the device comprising a solid resilient sheet ~~and comprising an opening, wherein a portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and~~ opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a substance which does not form a strong bond with a cured cyanoacrylate adhesive;

applying tension to the resilient sheet whereby the opening is enlarged to a sufficient size such that it ~~may~~ can surround a skin wound and expose a margin of skin surrounding the wound;

pressing the resilient sheet under tension against the skin to form a bond to the skin, such that the opening surrounds the skin wound and exposes a margin of skin surrounding the wound; ~~and~~

releasing the tension in the resilient sheet, whereby the wound is approximated;

applying a cyanoacrylate adhesive through the opening to the margin of skin surrounding the approximated wound;

allowing the cyanoacrylate adhesive to cure, whereby the wound is sealed; and

removing the resilient sheet from against the skin without disturbing the cured cyanoacrylate adhesive sealing the wound.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of: debriding the approximated wound.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of: irrigating the approximated wound.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of: disinfecting the approximated wound.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 15, ~~wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises~~ further comprising suturing the approximated wound, wherein

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suturing is conducted before applying a cyanoacrylate adhesive through the opening to the margin of skin surrounding the approximated wound.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 15, ~~wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises~~ further comprising stapling the approximated wound, wherein stapling is conducted before applying a cyanoacrylate adhesive through the opening to the margin of skin surrounding the approximated wound.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~49~~ 11, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a urethane sheet, ~~and wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises applying a cyanoacrylate adhesive to the approximated wound.~~

21. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the resilient sheet comprises an elastomer.

22. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a vinyl sheet.

23. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a vinyl.

24. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a urethane.

25. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein a portion of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a backing adhesive.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the backing adhesive comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises a butyl acrylate.

28. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the cyanoacrylate adhesive comprises a butyl cyanoacrylate or an octyl cyanoacrylate.